

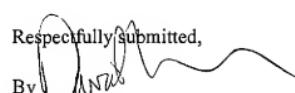
REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed on October 19, 2006. In the outstanding action, the pending claims stand rejected over the combination of Melnikoff in view of Sperandeo. The precise rejection and the same rationale were included in a prior Office Action mailed on April 21, 2006. Applicant responded to the April 21, 2006 action with claim amendments and remarks on July 20, 2006 and those remarks and the amendments (previously entered) are expressly incorporated into this response.

On November 16, 2006, Examiner Felten issued an Interview Summary stating that a Supplemental Action would be issued to address the remarks made in the July 20, 2006 response from Applicant. That Supplemental Action has yet to be received.

In accordance with the agreement with Examiner Felten that the Supplemental Action will be issued, and, in accordance with the telephone conversation conducted on January 11, 2007 with Supervisory Patent Examiner James A. Kramer, we are submitting this response to the outstanding Office Action and request a non-final action be issued promptly in view of the amendments and remarks of record.

Dated: January 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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